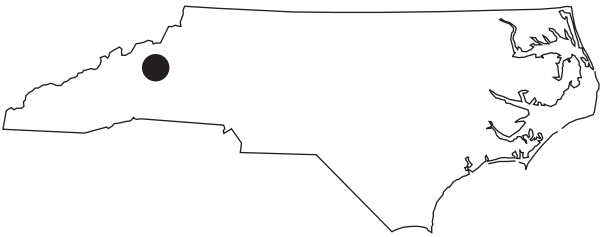


Grandfather Mountain State Park



GPS: 36.11139, -81.81250

Park Information

Hours of Operation:

November-February	8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
March - May, September & October	8 a.m. - 8 p.m.
June - August	8 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Contact Information:

Grandfather Mountain State Park	N.C. Division of
9872 Hwy 105 S	Parks and Recreation
Suite 6	Dept. of Environment and
Banner Elk, NC 28604	Natural Resources
(828) 963-9522	1615 Mail Service Center
grandfather.mountain@ncparks.gov	Raleigh, NC 27699-1615
www.ncparks.gov	(919) 707-9300



Please visit the North Carolina State Parks website or contact the park office for **the most current information** about seasonal hours, activities, alerts, camping, fees, programs, rules, and weather.

Welcome

In 2008, agreement was reached for the state parks system to acquire 2,456 acres of Grandfather Mountain to become North Carolina's newest state park. The property is commonly known as the "backcountry" of the famous travel destination. The acquisition was arranged with the help of The Conservation Fund and The Nature Conservancy, which holds conservation easements on the mountain covering nearly 4,000 acres. The acquisition was financed by the Parks and Recreation & Natural Heritage trust funds.

In early 2009, the General Assembly formally authorized Grandfather Mountain State Park. This gives the state parks system the option of seeking additional acreage for traditional park facilities. Any additional tracts or facilities would be identified and prescribed through a public master planning process.

Over 70 species of rare, threatened and endangered plants and animals reside on the mountain. From the lower streams up to the higher peaks, over a dozen distinct ecological zones stretch across the landscape. The park is known for some of the most challenging hiking trails in the Southeast. Nature lovers and hikers alike find this a special place.



When you have finished with this publication, help save our earth by sharing it with a friend, returning it to the park or recycling it.

The N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation is a part of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

John E Skvarla, III
Secretary



Pat McCrory
Governor

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Hiking Trails

Grandfather Mountain State Park offers more than 12 miles of trails lasting 2,456 acres along the mountain's ridgeline and its highest point at Calloway Peak. The trails offer magnificent scenery from rock outcrops and quiet forested coves near the mountain's crest. Permits are required.

Most of these trails are challenging; steep, rocky terrain can make progress slow at times. Hikers must use the trails' ladders and cables in some of the steeper sections. Be aware that hiking to the ridge area and back from the low-elevation trailheads may take a full day. Plan for enough time to get back to your vehicle before dark. Wear proper clothing and carry adequate equipment.

Grandfather Trail (2.4 miles, strenuous, blue diamond) Elevation gain and loss over 2.4 miles is roughly 1,872 feet. The Grandfather Trail runs the length of the summit ridge from the Grandfather Mountain attraction to Calloway Peak. It offers astonishing variety, running in and out of wind-dwarfed spruce and fir, across or around rock walls and pinnacles and into open spaces with mountain views in every direction. It was along this trail two centuries ago that explorer/botanist Andre Michaux broke into song thinking he had arrived at the high point of North America. The pace is often slow. There are chutes where progress is hand-over-hand and extra steep sections where hikers use in-place cables and ladders. An alternative to taking the ladders up MacRae Peak is to opt for the more sheltered Underwood Trail. Not recommended for children, inexperienced hikers, or pets.

Grandfather Extension Trail (0.6 mile, moderate, red diamond) This trail extends the Grandfather Trail down to the Black Rock parking area and can be used to fashion a loop hike in that area. Ends below a grand view of MacRae Peak. Not recommended for pets.

Underwood Trail (0.5 mile, strenuous, yellow diamond) Splitting off the Grandfather Trail near the half-mile marker, the Underwood Trail bypasses ladder climbs on MacRae Peak, rejoining the Grandfather Trail at MacRae Gap, about a mile out. The trail makes a steep, very rocky loop under the crest line around Raven Rock Cliffs by way of one ladder. Not recommended for pets.

Black Rock Trail (1 mile, moderate, gold circle) From the Attraction's Black Rock parking lot, this trail slopes out gradually to a wide-angle view of the swinging bridge, MacRae and Attic Window peaks, as well as Beacon Heights and Grandmother Mountain to the southwest.

Camping is allowed with a permit at 13 backpack camping sites along the trail system including the Hi-Balsam Shelter. During the transition to state park management, the fee to camp will be temporarily waived. In the future, campsites will be available through the state parks system's Central Reservations System. Until that time, campers must self-register at the trailheads. The maximum number on any campsite is six, except for Daniel Boone and Calloway Gap, which allow 12 per site.

Campers may leave vehicles at the Profile Trail or the Boone Fork parking lot. No vehicles may be left overnight in the Grandfather Mountain attraction.

Profile Trail (3.1 miles, strenuous, orange diamond) Ascending about 1,775 feet over 3.1 miles, this trail begins at the Profile parking area on Highway 105 and ends at the Grandfather Trail at Callaway Gap. Beginning as a scenic, rolling pathway through seasonal wildflowers, this trail crosses the Watauga River and travels under a hardwood canopy for much of its length. Upper sections, beginning around Foscoe View, get steeper. Shanty Spring, at 2.7 miles, marks a transition into a strenuous pathway of tumble-down rock that joins the Grandfather Trail after a climb of 0.4 miles. It makes the transition out of the hardwoods and into the Canadian fir zone of the crest area. The upper section is steep and rocky and calls for careful footwork. The upper portion of this trail is not recommended for pets. The first mile is a Track Trail (www.kidsinparks.gov).

Daniel Boone Scout Trail (3.0 miles, moderate, white diamond) Ascending about 2,000 feet over three miles, this hike begins at the Blue Ridge Parkway's Tanawha Trail and climbs to Calloway Peak, at 5,946 feet, the highest point in the Blue Ridge Range. About halfway up, at Flat Rock View, hikers reach the junction of Cragway Trail. The upper half of the Daniel Boone Scout Trail is rough going but spiced with exquisite views, including one of Price Park and one of the Linn Cove Viaduct. Near Calloway Peak, in-place ladders and cables help hikers through steep sections. The upper portion of this trail is not recommended for pets.

Nuwati Trail (1.2 miles, easy, blue circle) This trail follows the track of an old logging road. It's an easy but rocky hike, ending at Storyteller's Rock and a spectacular view of the Boone area. There are stream crossings, a solitary stand of big-tooth aspens and reminders of logging days gone by.

Cragway Trail (1 mile, strenuous, orange circle) A steep, strenuous hike with grand vistas. Boulders and crags offer elevated views of the Boone Fork area and Calloway Peak. This trail links Nuwati and Daniel Boone Scout trails, making a nice loop hike passing through rhododendron and blueberry thickets. Not recommended for pets.

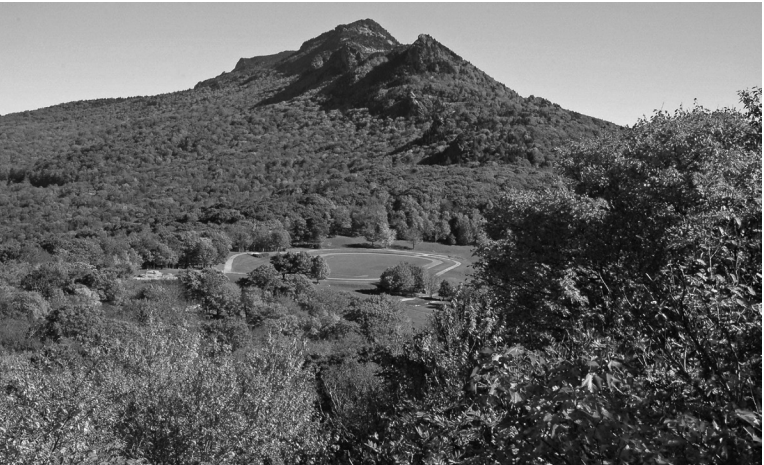
Note: Access to East Side Trails is from the Blue Ridge Parkway. Most hikers use the Boone Fork Parking Area at mile 299.9 on the Blue Ridge Parkway. Hikers can also use the Parkway's Asutsi Trail, which begins on US 221 (the only winter access when the Parkway is closed). From either of these points, hikers can follow the Parkway's Tanawha Trail south to reach Grandfather's Nuwati or Daniel Boone Scout Trail trailheads.

Camping

Camping is permitted in designated sites identified by nearby signs and a camping icon on the map. Fires are permitted at most lower elevation campsites but not on Grandfather Trail or at the Hi-Balsam Shelter. Fire rings are provided and fires must be completely extinguished before vacating a site. Use only wood that's on the ground. For cooking, a gas-powered backpacking stove is recommended. Campfires may be banned during dry periods. Water is available only from intermittent streams. All untreated water should be purified by boiling for 10 minutes or by using purification chemicals or through use of a filtering device.

Please do not disturb nearby campers. Quiet hours are 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. Use care to protect the terrain and plant life. Carry out all trash.

This is bear country. Hang all food and scented items. Cables are provided on all Nuwati sites and Daniel Boone Scout site.



Rules & Regulations

Make your visit a safe and rewarding experience. Some of our rules are posted throughout the park for the protection of our park and our visitors. A complete list is available at the park office. Help preserve our natural resources by observing the following:

- The removal of any plant, animal, artifact or mineral is prohibited.
- The possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited.
- All state parks are wildlife preserves. Hunting or trapping is not permitted. Do not feed or approach wildlife.
- Fireworks are not permitted.
- Pets must be on a leash no longer than six feet.
- Do not litter. Carry out your trash.
- Camping is allowed by permit and in designated sites only.
- Firearms and other weapons are prohibited except that those with a proper permit may possess a concealed handgun in permitted areas and under the requirements of North Carolina G.S. 14-415.11. All firearms and weapons are prohibited in state park visitor centers and offices.

For Your Safety

This is a steep and rugged mountain and weather conditions can be extreme. Do not underestimate this mountain. To prevent accidents, please remember these safety tips:

- If you have a breathing or heart condition, be cautious of strenuous activity.
- Dress properly. The climate of Grandfather Mountain is quite cold and temperatures can fluctuate drastically in all seasons, even in summer. To guard against hypothermia, have warm clothing, rain gear and adequate food and water with you.
- When hiking, stay on designated trails and away from cliff faces.
- Daylight hours are shorter from late fall to early spring: allow enough time to get off the trail before dark.
- Be alert to approaching storms and seek shelter.
- Winter hiking on this mountain can be extreme and only those with experience and appropriate equipment should attempt hiking above 4,000 feet on this mountain.
- Bears are present in the park. Campers must hang all food and scented items. Do not feed or approach wildlife. Pets must be leashed.

Contact park staff for other safety tips or for an explanation of park rules.

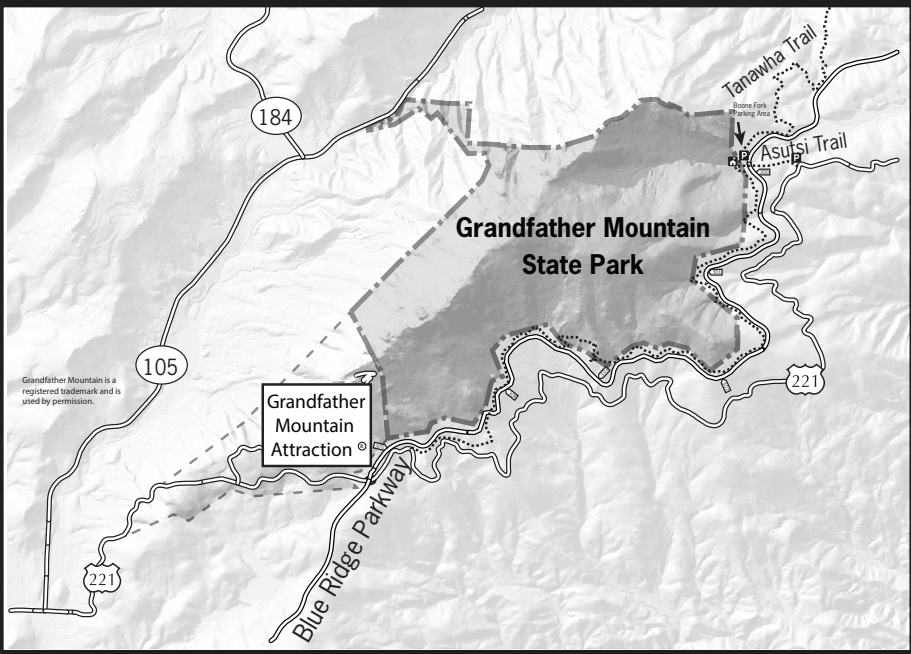
For Your Pets Safety

Dogs must be leashed at all times in the state park. This is for the safety of the dog, safety of other hikers, and protection of the animals and plants that live on this mountain.

Our trails are steep and rocky with over a dozen ladder climbs on the ridgeline and higher elevations. Many dogs have been injured on these sections of trails. It is very difficult for hikers to maintain a dog's leash on the difficult sections. For these reasons we do not recommend hiking with dogs on the Grandfather Trail, Cragway Trail, or upper portions of the Daniel Boone Scout and Profile trails.



GRANDFATHER MOUNTAIN STATE PARK



LEGEND

	Camping		Parking
	Campfires Permitted		Permit Registration
	Campfires NOT Permitted		Point of Interest
	Hiking Trail		Road
	Kids in Parks TRACK trail		Road Mile Marker
	Ladder		Shelter
	Park Boundary		Water
	Park Office		

TRAILS

Black Rock Trail	○ gold circle	moderate	1.0 miles
Cragway Trail	○ orange circle	strenuous	1.0 miles
Daniel Boone Scout Trail	◇ white diamond	strenuous	3.0 miles
Grandfather Trail	◇ blue diamond	strenuous	2.4 miles
Grandfather Trail Ext.	◇ red diamond	moderate	0.6 miles
Nuwati Trail	○ blue circle	easy	1.2 miles
Profile Trail	◇ orange diamond	strenuous	3.1 miles
Underwood Trail	◇ yellow diamond	strenuous	0.5 miles

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE TRAILS

Asuti Trail	easy	0.4 miles
Tanawha Trail	strenuous	13.0 miles

